THE STROBE

THE NEWSPAPER OF FITCHBURG STATE COLLEGE

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Downtown progresses despite rocky road

by Anna Allen and Sonja Randall
Co-Editors-in-Chief

Plans to unite the city of Fitchburg and the College were brought to you last semester by the Strobe. These plans are still rolling despite a few bumps along the way.

A thirty-six passenger trolley was expected to be available to FSC students upon their arrival this fall. The trolley is not here. According to Ted Brovitz, executive director of Fitchburg by Design, the arrangements with Stowe, Vermont fell through and Fitchburg is currently waiting for the opportunity to purchase a trolley from New Bedford or Providence.

New to Main St. is a food court that features a farmer's market, a hot-dog stand, a salad bar (courtesy of Dagwoods sandwich shop), and an ice-cream stand. "The food court has become a gathering center, people can get a hot-dog, read a book, and meet new people," said Brovitz. Every Friday live music is offered from 11am to 1pm.

Two micro-breweries are currently working to establish a location on Main St., one of which could be here as early as next year.

Park Square Books n' Bagels is a confirmed business opening in the upcoming weeks. This new store will also feature gourmet coffee, newspapers, magazines, cards, and a local artists gallery.

Businesses presently negotiating contracts with the city are two shoe stores, a women's clothing store, pubs and restaurants, a framing shop, and a second book store.

You may remember talk of a celebration along Main St. for student upon the opening of the semester, it was never organized. "The Welcome Back was hard to organize because people were gone for the summer," said Brovitz. "Maybe something will be organized later this fall. Maybe an Apple Days or Octoberfest."

The Intermodal Station will be completed in October and a Grand Opening has been set for the 30th.

For updated details on further developments stay tuned to the Strobe.

Downtown Fitchburg — File Photo

Anderson appointed as McKay school principal

by Vanessa Manni
News Editor

Francine M. Anderson, a special education teacher at Fitchburg State College's McKay Campus School, has been named the school's Acting Associate Dean/Principal.

She will be responsible for all aspects of the elementary school, which enrolls 600 children from the Fitchburg area. McKay Campus School is jointly operated and staffed by the college and the city.

Anderson has taught language improvement at McKay since 1988. She designed a special needs program for elementary school students with severe neurological dysfunction in speech and language. Anderson has also served as supervisor of Fitchburg State graduate and undergraduate students, during which time she published a booklet for parents, "A Guide to Your Child's Language Development." Her other publications include a manual entitled "Psycholinguistic Approaches to Language" and also a number of curriculum guides for deaf and language-impaired students.

Francine M. Anderson — photo courtesy of Public Relations

Anderson, a resident of Fitchburg, holds a degree from Regis College, as well as master's degree's from both Boston University and Fitchburg State College.

SGA Hot Topics

Here are some recent issues that sparked interest:

The Mailbox Move
Falcon Fest Homecoming
Winter Ball
Survival Kits
Class Trips
Frozen Club Funds
Upcoming Elections
Commuter Appreciation Day
Health and Safety Issues

If any of these issues spark an interest in you, then do something!
Attend Student Government meetings or get the scoop for The Strobe!
Just get involved.

Conference to headline new alternatives

by Vanessa Manni
News Editor

On September 26, 1996 Fitchburg State College will sponsor the 10th Annual Alternative Education Conference, scheduled to take place from 12:30 to 4:00 pm in the McKay Teacher Education Center.

This year's topic is "Charting New Alternatives." The general public, and particularly area teachers, are invited to attend free of charge. Off-campus groups are asked to inform the college's Education Department (665-3193) if more than 15 people will be attending.

The keynote speaker will be Rosanne Bacon, former president of the Massachusetts Teachers Association, as well as education consultant for the National Education Association Executive Committee and the National Center for Precollegiate Teacher Recruitment. As one of the most influential figures in Massachusetts education, Bacon will address issues of education reform, charter and pilot schools, the role of unions in the change process, and the future of education in Massachusetts, and moreover in the United States.

Also participating in the conference will be Angela Paige Cook, founder of Paige Academy in Roxbury; Mary Gale, principal of Cambridge Montessori School in Cambridge; Laura Rogers, school coordinator; faculty and students of Francis Parker Charter School at Fort Devens, and Joanne Marion, vice-principal of the Peter Fitzpatrick Elementary School in Pepperell.

Bacon's keynote address will be presented at 12:30 pm in the McKay Auditorium and the other seminars and reception will follow.

Masspirg gets active

by Amanda Sears
Correspondent

This semester MASSPIRG will be starting the Toxics "Right to Know" Campaign. MASSPIRG will lay down the groundwork for a product labeling law by conducting polls, research, petitions, press conferences, and various campus and community visibility events.

This law would require companies to provide consumers with knowledge about the toxic chemicals in everyday household products.

Another campaign MASSPIRG will be participating in this semester is Youth Vote '96. College students represent one of the largest group of citizens able to vote. By registering students and increasing student knowledge of the candidates and issues MASSPIRG will help to empower students to use their voting power.

Two additional campaigns are primarily service oriented. The Water Watch campaign is working on cleaning the local waterways and educating students of all ages about water issues. The Hunger and Homelessness Campaign will benefit the Fitchburg community by raising food, money, and awareness about hunger issues.

The best way to support any, or all, of these campaigns, is to become involved. Meetings are held during the all-college hour (1:30-2:30pm) in G-6. All students are invited and encouraged to attend meetings to learn more about how they can help promote environmental and social change.

MASSPIRG (Massachusetts Student Public Interest Research Group) is a statewide environmental, consumer, and community service organization funded and directed by students at 24 campuses in Massachusetts. The Chapter at Fitchburg State College was founded in 1982, when a majority of students voted to fund MASSPIRG through a five dollar fee, per student, that was waivable every semester. Every two years the student body votes to reaffirm support for MASSPIRG at Fitchburg State College. The fee is pooled statewide, in order to hire professional staff to work with students so they can have an impact on local and state issues.

Campus center plans big

Melissa Cordeiro
Features Editor

From clam bakes and cookouts to comedians and concerts, the Campus Center has been brainstorming ideas to make the Campus of FSC more exciting than ever.

This semester there are new faces amongst the Campus Center Committee, including Campus Center and Student Affairs Director Tullio Nieman.

This place has a lot of hard working, interested people who need some good programming ideas," said Nieman. "In the first two weeks we try to provide many social and cultural events to build up student enthusiasm. Especially while clubs like SGA, (Student Government Association) are getting ready to go. Now they can start getting more of their own stuff going."

The clubs on campus, administration paper work, and accounts are handled through SGA and this office. Nieman has worked at many colleges including; City University in New York, Drew University in New Jersey, Norwich College in Vermont, and Colby in Maine.

The Programs Council consists of about eight people who sit down and brainstorm for ideas of activities," said Nieman. "But I think most of the ideas should come from the students (done by the sampling student survey)."

Presently the office is looking for student input to further plan campus activities such as concerts and special guests. The following is a listing of the events planned for the months of September and October:

September:

Wednesday, 25	Trivia night, Pub
Thursday, 26	Campus Clambake and Laff Olympics, 4pm Campus Quad
	Ska Band, 8pm Pub

October:

Wednesday, 2	Ray Boston give away, Pub night, 8pm pub
Friday, 4	Commuter Appreciation Day, 12pm Commuter Caf.
Mon.-Wed., 7-11	October Fest. Celebration
Friday, 18	Tentative Fireworks, seen from quad with Pep Rally, 9pm
	Live band: Rustic Overtones, 10pm Weston

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The Strobe considers for publication letters to the editor on any topic of interest to the Fitchburg State College community. All submissions run at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief and are subject to editing for style and length. All articles must be typed or legibly hand-written and include a name and phone number in case of questions. All letters in response to a Strobe article must be submitted within two days after the article is published.

Announcements should be short, including dates, places, times and a contact person.

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"We have lost our ability to express our own opinions in public, lest we offend someone within earshot."

Jim Ettweia
Acton, Mass
1994

Rave on at the Civic Center

Karen Burzdak
Correspondent

The base is pulsing through each other's system. Bodies are moving, bumping into other bodies. Colored strobe lights disfigure faces to create a different world.

No, this isn't Oz or the Magic Kingdom, it's Fitchburg.

Three thousand people from all over the north east met in the Wallace Civic Center for a rave on Saturday, September 14, from 10 pm to 8:30 am.

The Civic Center rented out the building to promoter, Chris Maxwell. The cost was 20 dollars in advance and 25 dollars at the door.

Twelve DJ's, such as On-E and O'Sheen, played Techno music as people crowded the hockey arena, planetarium, moon walk and sea of balls. "Raves are great. The more outrageous the better...," said FSC student Christine Hughes.

Casualties? There were a few. Sticking out in peoples' minds was the kid who had to go to the hospital because he swallowed his tongue ring. On a more serious note, three people were taken away in ambulances because of drug overdoses.

"The vast majority of people are there to have a good time, so I wouldn't stop hosting (the rave) because of a few bad apples," said Ben Ruggles, General Manager of the Civic Center. "It was a peace-loving crowd."

When the rave was over the promoters held an after hours party at Shady Point Camp Ground. "People were coming from everywhere. It seemed like a smaller scale version of 'Woodstock'. They all congregated around the DJ," said Maxwell.

Everyone went on dancing until 2:30 in the afternoon when they began the journey home, tired and raved out.

(The next planned rave for the Civic Center will be in April.)

Puppet Master comes to FSC

by Sonja Randall
co-Editor-in-Chief

The stage is an oversized coat. Out of pockets, buttons, sleeves, and flaps, emerge the puppets who, with the help of the audience, tell the fairy tales. On Sunday, September 29 at 3 p.m a highly inventive puppet show will be performed by the Laku Paka Theater in Percival Auditorium.

Master puppeteer and the theater's founder, Gunter Staniewski, has been delighting audiences of all ages since 1983. Assisted by his wife Anke, a puppet maker, Mr. Staniewski has created, written, and performed ten productions of original stories and reinterpretations of classic fairy tales for Laku Paka Theater. These works have been seen at virtually every international puppet theater festival in Germany and Austria, as well as at international festivals in the Netherlands, Belgium, and Spain.

Children five-years-old and up can enjoy both shows, *Rapunzel* and *Alfred in the Straw*. The Laku Paka Theater is touring New England after its participation in the Jim Henson Foundation's International Festival of Puppet theater.

This performance is part of the cultural series at FSC. The performance is funded by the New England Foundation for the Arts, New England Presenters, the McKay School PTO, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and in association with the Jim Henson Foundation's International Festival of Puppet Theater.

Tickets are $5 and are available at the door or by calling 345-2151. Seating is limited so reserve your seats ASAP. For more information call the FSC Events line at 665-3007.

Cheap romantic dating ideas in Boston

By Alexandra Ryan
via e-mail

For a "twenty-something" the word dating conjures up images of bobbysoxers, visiting drive-ins, and sharing milkshakes. Drive-ins are uncommon these days, but somewhere between our parents' days and yelling to a date across a crowded keg, dating can be fun again.

In fact, a real dating crisis exists today. Too many young people and students take the simple and mindless way out. They go to movies featuring the latest Hollywood bore-fest or hang out in packed bars getting loaded. Boston has plenty more exciting, interesting, and stimulating venues for dates.

Dating doesn't mean picking someone up at 8 p.m., taking them to dinner and a movie, and ending with a goodnight kiss under the street lamp. Instead, a date can take place at any time of the day, involve a meal, be active or relaxed and conducive to long conversations, you name it. The Isabella Stewart Gardner museum on a rainy Saturday afternoon is a great date. Ice skating at Larz Anderson skating rink in Brookline on a brisk winter day is fantastic!

There are three basic tenets for a great date: it doesn't have to be expensive, but you must be creative and use your resources. Remember, planning is everything.

AN EXPENSIVE DATE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GOOD DATE.

Nowhere was it said that a date who wastes a lot of cash on an evening is a particularly good date. If you pay special attention to the great dates of history, and fiction, the opposite is often true. Did Romeo and Juliet go to five-star restaurants? Around Boston, it's hard to beat an autumn afternoon canoeing in Concord or taking a cruise to the harbor islands.

BE CREATIVE AND USE YOUR RESOURCES

The best dates demand creative thought, a step outside of the ordinary. The Boston Common is an unbelievable place for a beautiful picnic with someone you really like and a basket filled with cheese, crackers, and fruit. Naturally, this same picnic would be great in any number of places-including your living room floor if the weather is not agreeable!

A summer afternoon sailing on the Charles River is as romantic as dates get. A winter evening enjoying a classic film at the Wang Center adds real class compared to a night at the movies.

PLANNING IS EVERYTHING

A well-planned date is crucial. Before going out, know where you're going, how you're going to get there, what you need to bring, and what's appropriate to wear. Nothing is more annoying than being picked up for a date and hearing, "So what do you feel like doing?" Yuck! How much better would it be to hear, "I thought we'd start with a nice walk along the harbor, then dinner at La Piccola Venezia in the North End, followed by some cappuccino or a dessert at Cafe Vittorio?" (Be ready with a decent "Plan B" if your date dislikes Italian Food!)

Be sensitive to your date's interests, or plan several options and let your date pick. Again research your plans well. If you want to catch a Free Friday Flick on the Esplanade in Boston, find out what's playing and if your date will enjoy it. How many times can anyone see "Thelma and Louise?"

Being rigid with your plan is NEVER romantic. While spontaneity is wonderful when it's the result of being swept away by a great opportunity, it should never be the result of a lack of planning. A great date is one that moves with the mood, but doesn't include walking around indecisively while the other person's feet ache and your stomach growls. Get the picture? You've got to strike a good balance.

Don't forget, in Boston transportation is key! Many of us rely on public transportation, so make sure that you know where the "T" station or bus stop is, when it stops running, and other necessary information. It's a great touch whenever a date has purchased tokens ahead of time and readily provides them for both people. Missing the last "T" back home is simply bad form, plus unexpected cab fare will ruin anyone's cheap date! For more

continued on page 7

FSC + summer = no class

By Kimberly White
Strobe Reporter

In the summer of 1995 I was completely satisfied with the summer courses that I took. Unfortunately, this summer's course left little to be desired.

I enrolled in Basic Math I to fill a math requirement. This class and Basic Math II shared the same classroom. I was appalled when many other students walked in from a different class. Did we not spend $385 to take this course? The problem was we obviously did not have the professors' undivided attention, because he had another class to teach.

Basic Math I came in at 5:00 p.m. and stayed until 7:40 p.m. Basic Math II came in at 6:00 p.m. and stayed until 8:40 p.m. The rest of the class after 6:00 was our so-called "math lab" where we were to do our homework in class and if we had any questions, we could ask them at this time. I would rather do my work at home. We were not being taught anything, so why spend an extra hour and forty minutes there?

During tests, we would have to leave the room to have a quiet place to concentrate. This was a travesty to both classes involved, not only to my class. The class ended after its scheduled five week period and I did well, but I still couldn't help but feel cheated out of my education. Students mostly read the material and taught themselves. If we had questions, the answers were explained.

If anything came out of this experience, it was a valuable lesson. I will certainly check into the summer courses more carefully to avoid the same problem from occurring again. When spending that much money, I would hope that the professor would only have one course in a classroom at a time.

The Strobe

will hold an **O**pen **H**ouse for all interested students on

Thursday, September 26th

at 1:30 in the *Strobe* office, located in the basement of the **Hammond Building** across from the pub.

We are looking for:

Writers
Copyeditors
Photographers

and

anyone with Ideas or comments

If you're interested, but can't attend the meeting contact Sonja, Anna, or Scott at **665-3647**.

WANTED!!!

ADMISSIONS TOUR GUIDES AND TELECOUNSELORS

Must be enthusiastic, reliable, and able to provide short term volunteer commitment.

Tour guides needed for open house programs on Oct. 27, between 1-4 and Nov. 23, between 9-noon.

Telecounslors needed throughout October and November to call prospective students.

All majors needed. 2.5 GPA or higher preferred.
Please come to the Admissions office as soon as possible

Fitchburg State Communications Dept.

Presents
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Mike Reynolds:
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Love your neighbor, don't tell her what to do

Rick Rodricks
A&E Editor

If I say "suck on this" I'd better be talking about a lollipop.

If I ride in a Boston parade with my tongue in someone's ear, I'd better be a heterosexual, drunk guy.

If I run an opinion article in my college newspaper I'd better not tell anybody to f*ck off.

So that's how it is, is it? Everything in America must be palpable to everyone. If an 87 year old grandmother from Minnesota doesn't like a painting that a 22 year old artist from California makes, that painting can not hang in our city hall in Massachusetts.

There is a huge problem facing the nation when it attempts to homogenize its public spaces. There is an inherent flaw in the belief that every parade, every television show, every public speech must be acceptable to every member of society.

We make jokes about the absurd lengths which Political Correctness can take us. For example instead of short people we might say a vertically challenged individual. Ha ha, o.k. so that's funny, but it is not really funny when we laugh at this silliness at the same time as we allow other silliness to become part of our cultural norm.

On one side there is, for example, great value in the idea that we should not call people "invalids." It is simple stupidity to think that a person in a wheelchair is somehow invalid. I do not want to criticize people trying to rework our language to avoid stereotypes and negative terminology. I do criticize people who take action to ban gay rights parades, Rush Limbaugh's latest book, Skinhead-Nazis, "The Piss-Christ," or pornographic movies.

I alone make the ultimate decision on what I find offensive to myself, as you alone do for yourself. If you want to make people change, do not judge what they think. When you tell them they are wrong for enjoying something offensive because you are offended by chauvinism, racism, gays, Nazis, Jews, or whatever, you are trying to control their thoughts.

If you and I ever want everyone to become equals, we need to abandon the concept of telling others how to think and accept the reality that no one is our inferior, and that all people, even children, have the irrevocable drive, desire, and ability to think for themselves. If we try to tamper with this ability, we will only alienate people, and we will never get them to understand our valid points.

There is no reason to try to tell other people what to think. When you tell other people not to look at something or not to present something offensive to your system of values, you are basically insisting that you know better than them in terms of how to act. You are treating them as an unequal, as a person of lesser intellect.

You do have the ability to change another person by showing them why you think what you do. You can reason rationally with people. Communication with people, treating everyone as an equal, works to bring love and goodness into our society. If you have an issue, such as disdain of pornography because you feel it leads to the degradation of women, then the only way you are going to get people to appreciate your position is to rationalize with them.

To continue the example, you could work to get your local government to ban pornography sales which would certainly limit people's ability to get such materials. Alternatively, and much more effectively, you could explain to people on a rational, individual, interpersonal discussion-based level why you feel pornography is bad. If you have the right thinking, you should be able to convince other people to agree with you.

If, through rational discussion, you convince even two or three people that pornography is bad, you have worked positively towards stopping the harmful effects of that which you find obscene. If pornography were simply banned, there will be no one who is better aware of what you perceive as the dangers of pornography.

You can't do both. If you ban pornography, there will be little opportunity to discuss the subject rationally. Our state is so large that our government can not make the kind of decisions necessary to enforce such a ban. The idea of free speech is not limited to only the kind of speech which every American can agree is inoffensive. There are too many of us, we all think for ourselves, and nobody agrees 100% with anybody else.

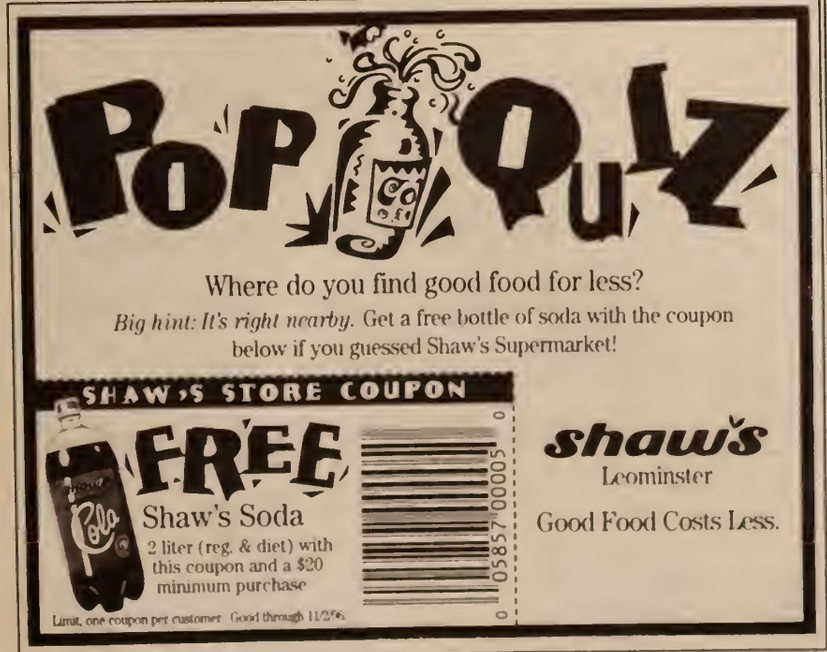
Last year I heard a National Public Radio story on the difficulties which university libraries were having with students stealing books. The librarians were under the general consensus that the main cause for the theft of many book was censorship by individual initiative. Most of the missing tomes were on human sexuality, books criticizing or supporting religion, and (the most stolen of all) Rush Limbaugh's latest written criticism. These books were stolen by people who presumably did not like the subject matter and tried to keep others from being exposed to it.

Individuals who steal books so that others may not read them are like the people who complain about gay right's parades or the people who don't want to see a pornographic bookstore advertised on the radio. Usually, these are people who genuinely claim that they are deeply offended. But mostly, these are people who are willing to try to control other people's minds because they don't want other people, especially children, being exposed to things which they personally do not like.

If you have any desire to change the world, you must not insult other people by telling them how to think. You might believe pornography is offensive or dangerous, for example, but everyone finds being told how to think equally offensive.

We can continue to move towards intellectual, political, and social equality as long as we avoid insulting other people. Discuss issues, don't push your ideas into law or blast your opinions at others. If you are right, talk to people and they will eventually understand. If they don't understand maybe they never will. If you are wrong you can learn.

Rick Rodricks is the Strobe's Arts & Entertainment Editor and a champion of individual liberties. He will be mouthing off in a regular column until we find a permanent Opinion Editor to replace him.



Not Enough Time In Open Gym to Perfect That Jump Shot? Well Now There Is!!!

The Intramural Department has extended the Open Gym hours to your benefit. Everyone is Welcome to Shoot Some Hoops!

The New Hours are as followed:

Sept	16th	7:30-9:30	Oct	3rd	7:30-9:30
	19th	7:30-9:30		7th	7:30-9:30
	24th	7:30-9:30		9th	7:30-9:30
	26th	7:30-9:30		10th	7:30-9:30
				14th	7:30-9:30

Hammond gallery features works of Peet and Keller

by Rick Rodricks
A&E Editor

Climbing the stairs to the Hammond Art Gallery is always a prelude to a mystery. The stairs wind their way to the balcony which overlook the M&M lounge and halfway up, on a landing, a large metal door opens into the gallery.

Before opening the door, visitors to a new art exhibit can never be sure what they will discover. This month there are photographs mounted and hung on every wall. No mystery about that. After all, this month features the work of award winning photographers George Peet and Gabriel Keller. The surprise comes from the deep emotions which these photographs bring to the careful observer.

There is plenty of emotion behind every work currently mounted on the walls in the Hammond Art Gallery. Anyone who stares at these pieces for more than a few minutes will discover themselves moved by powerful feelings of trust, faith, innocence, confusion, and everything else which the talented photographers have brought into our school. In short, the exhibit currently on display is an excellent example of professional, photographic high art.

At first, observers might wonder why Keller's series pieces, heavily themed with titles like "Accuser Becomes the Accused" or "Is This Life All There Is," would share the gallery with Peet's nature studies of kudzu and cliffs. Yet the more you look, the more you understand the way which the kudzu pieces, which fill every frame with the weedy vines killing everything in their path, compliment the series pieces, whose themes include rape, murder, and odd relationships.

For example, any one of Peet's "Kudzu" pieces gives a sense of confinement as the leafy, living vines carpet the scene and fill 90% - 100% of each frame. Here there is an oppressive feeling. These vines have killed other trees anchored themselves to walls, climbed and spread everywhere they could.

Similarly, a piece like "Target in Germany" from Keller's "Notes in Four Voices" series carries oppressive feelings out of the frame by placing an obscurely layered central image over a background of newsprint headlines. The initial obscurity of the images becomes clearer when the viewer takes a few steps back and focuses on each of the several layers.

A good example of this technique's effectiveness can be seen in Kellerís "Volunteer Opportunities." This piece, like the rest in the series, is named for the central headline in the newsprint background. Only by standing close to the piece can the headlines be read. Next to the words "Volunteer opportunities" is a headline, presumably from an advertisement which reads "Utterly hilarious!" Next to that, in the same row but obviously from a different story, are the words "Rape of a girl, 5, in 1989."

Viewers must step back from "Volunteer Opportunities" to see all of the elements of this layered pictograph. There is a schematic of a house, its existing rooms plotted alongside rooms in planning. Also, there is a large image of a young boy. Full recognition of the images requires another step back. From here, you can see the boy more clearly, his eyes stare at you happily.

Obviously there is a queer relationship between the words of the headlines which, in combination, suggest "volunteer opportunities for the utterly hilarious rape of a girl, 5, in 1989." The inherent tension of this phrase's statement reflects the tension between each of the photographic layers of the piece. The smiling boy, the rooms being planned, and the obscured words blurred together suggest the artist has feelings of confusing personal angst which she unravels here and shares with observers of her work.

All of the photographs in the gallery are black and white. Both artists make good use of light and shadow contrasts and their images are rife with texture. Any one of Peet's pieces looks three-dimensional because of the way he catches sunlight on the background, while concentrating the lines of composition on the high contrast areas between the leaves of the vines.

Students study photographs in Hammond Gallery Photo by Philip Maieski

The Crow: City of Angels Fails to Deliver

by Michael J. Poirier
Sports Editor

*1/2

After seeing *The Crow: City of Angels*, I honestly believed I had seen the same movie two years ago when it was just called *The Crow*. I was right.

Based on the popular comic book series, this inferior sequel breaks absolutely no new ground and Vincent Perez, as lead character Ashe, fails to capture the spirit and energy that Brandon Lee had in his previous film.

The premise is simple. Ashe and his son are murdered by a drug lord and his gang soon after father and son witness a murder. Ashe is brought back to life to will his revenge upon the drug lord and his cronies. Didn't we see this in the first film? I think so.

Another aspect of the film which fails is the possible romance between Ashe and Sarah (Mira Kirshner), a tattoo artist who dreams of Ashe and his son's death. There is no chemistry between the two and just when you think something interesting is going to happen, Ashe leaves to kill another bad guy.

The drug lord (Richard Brooks) and his gang, led by rock icon Iggy Pop, are so horrible they're funny. As Ashe kills them off one by one, you can't help but feel happy for them because at least they don't have to participate in this film any longer.

If you want to waste almost eight dollars on a bad sequel, see this film. If you want to see a good film for three dollars or less, rent the original, it's that much better.

Because of the upcoming presidential election, The Strobe wants to hear from you. Write us your opinion on who should be the next president and why.

Retro funk returns on motown milestones

by Mike Lavoie
Strobe Reporter

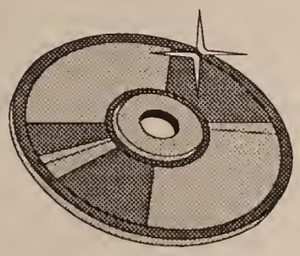
CD Review ****
Jackson 5: The Ultimate Collection
Motown Milestones

Before his journey into weirdness and his pathetic abuse of the Beatles' catalog, Michael Jackson was part of a successful group including his four brothers otherwise known as the Jackson Five.

The Jackson Five scored numerous top-ten hits in the early Seventies and the recent Motown release *Jackson Five: The Ultimate Collection* showcases the funky and soulful tunes that made them famous.

The most amazing thing about these songs is the powerful vocal delivery of a young Michael Jackson. Songs such as "I Want You Back," "ABC," and "I'll Be There," conquered the world long before "Billy Jean," "Smooth Criminal," or "Earth Song," ever saw the light of day.

The music on this collection is well balanced between up-tempo grooves and slow ballads.



Another notable aspect is the fine job the rest of the Jackson clan does with the background harmonies. The only real clunker is the 1995 remix of "It's Your Thing," but that can be forgiven in light of the other material present.

Though the Jackson Five might not be to everyone's taste, there is no denying the top-notch musicianship and production. Musically, these songs are direct predecessors to the modern day style of dance music: they're funky, they're infectious, and many of them highlight the good time feeling that comes along with rhythm and blues.

CD Review: ** 1/2
The Best of Teena Marie
Motown Milestones

The new Motown release "The Best of Teena Marie," is a collection of early Eighties funk and dance music. Among the songs included are "I Need Your Lovin'," and "Square Biz," both of which made it to the top-ten on the R&B charts in 1980 and 1981 respectively.

The music does not hold much for those who want more out of their songs than "You're All the Boogie I Need." If substance is being sought after, it won't be found here.

The songs overall are pretty much dance club fare and definitely sound like end-of-the-era disco tunes, especially where the bass is concerned. The ballads "Can It Be Love," and "Young Love," do settle down with nice slow grooves throughout.

There are no great lyrical revelations on "The Best of Teena Marie." But then again, these aren't the type of songs listeners expect profound things from either. Yet if someone is looking for decent dance tunes, this collection will be satisfactory.

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information on Cheap Dates e-mail LOECHA@aol.com.

Alexandra Ryan is a recent graduate of Boston University and author of the new book "Cheap Dates: Boston."

Get cultured for five bucks

by Presley Reese
Correspondent

The String Trio of New York will be in Percival next week

At the low cost of five dollars, students will be able to enjoy an evening full of riveting acoustic improvisation. On Saturday October 5, The String Trio of New York will perform in Percival Auditorium at 8 p.m.

The performance is part of the cultural series at FSC, funded in part by grants from the New England Foundation of Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Because seating is limited, you should get your tickets early by calling 345-2151.

The performance will be preceded by a free lecture and demonstration at 6 p.m. The lecture, entitled "Jazz Illustrations: A Look at the Unique Styles & Sounds of the String Trio of New York" will be held in the Kent Recital Hall.

For more information call the FSC Events line at 665-3007.

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Falcons football team loses heart breaker

by Michael J. Poirier
Sports Editor

The Fitchburg State football lost a tough 28-27 game to the Framingham State Rams at their home opener Saturday at Elliott Field. With four seconds to go in the game, sophomore Greg McClintock's 35-yard field goal was blocked, denying the Falcons their first win of the season.

Even with the loss there were some exceptional performances. Junior running back Paul Parisi, who ran for 90 yards in the team's opener, ran for 126 yards on 20 carries and scored a touchdown. Senior linebacker Chris Coutu had a phenomenal game with 15 tackles, two fumble recoveries and an interception. Coutu's brother, Keith, also contributed with a 76-yard kickoff return for a touchdown and along with McClintock's extra point, gave the Falcons a 27-20 lead early in the fourth quarter.

The Falcons had the opportunity to put the game out of reach, driving deep into Ram territory, but quarterback Jason Dyer bobbled a snap on fourth-and-two at the Rams' 22-yard line. With the football in their possession, the Rams capitalized and drove 78 yards downfield for the touchdown. Down 27-26, Rams' receiver Shawn O'Neil caught a two-point conversion pass from quarterback Pat Powers with only 1:04 left in the game.

At halftime the Falcons lead 13-12 and with only 47 seconds left in the third quarter, receiver Jason Lobik caught a 34-yard touchdown from Dyer to give FSC a 20-12 cushion. Framingham State tied the score on their next possession with a two-yard touchdown run from Rams' running back Aynsley Rosenbaum.

Dyer (8-for-23, 117 yards) scored the first touchdown for FSC with an 11-yard run in the second quarter. In addition to his touchdown, Lobik picked up 88 yards on 5 receptions.

Rookie coach Chris Nugai, who earlier this year stressed the importance of getting 100% out of all his players, said, "We made some mistakes, but football savvy, knowing situations, is something that comes with experience and maturity."

With this tough loss the Falcons go to 0-2. Their next game is Saturday at Westfield State. Kick-off is at 7:00.

FSC football stars, the Cuutu Brothers. File Photo

RECENT RESULTS

The Football team is 0-2 after the loss to Framingham State. Paul Parisi rushed for 126 yards, a new career high.

Women's soccer went to 2-1 as Karen Irving notched her second shutout of the season as they defeated Emerson College 1-0.

Men's soccer won their first game of the season against Daniel Webster. John Toney had two goals in the 5-1 victory.

With their 1-2 showing at the Atlantic Union Tournament, the Volleyball team's record stands at 2-5.

For more information on FSC Athletics call the Falcon Athletic Hotline at 665-3007 Extension 6.

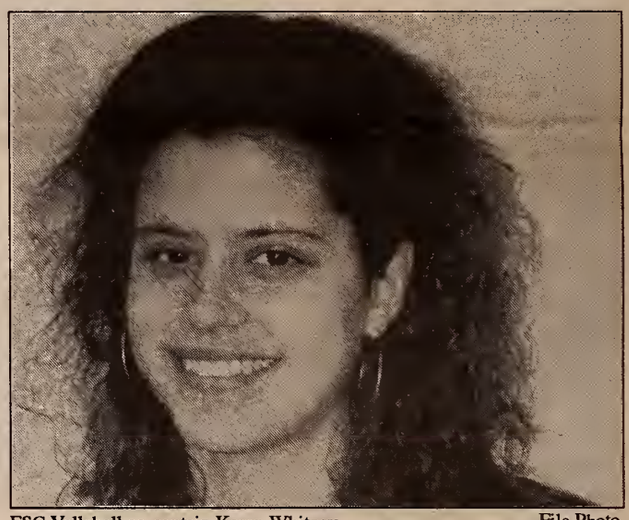
Volleyball serves to kill

by Michael J. Poirier
Sports Editor

The Fitchburg State Women's Volleyball team lost two out of three games at the Atlantic Union Tournament dropping their record to 2-5. After posting a win in their home opener against Daniel Webster, the Lady falcons have lost three out of their last four games.

Coach Bob Murray, in his 16th season as head coach, cited that youth and lack of team cohesion make the team more prone to mistakes. "It's a learning process with a young team," Murray said. "They need to reinforce each other, and pick each other up throughout the course of the game."

Co-captain Rebecca Kiley said that this year's team needs to improve on such skills as digging, diving, and hard serves. "The team lacks fundamentals," Kiley said. "We don't communicate on the court as much as we should." Kiley also said that there have been positive contributions from the new players. "Inori Kunimu has done a great job for us this year," said Kiley. "She played with another team last year and has fit right in with us."



FSC Volleball co-captain Karen Whitney File Photo

Co-captain Karen Whitney also noted that the lack of a good service game is what's currently hurting the team. "When you don't have a good service game, it's tough to win." Whitney, along with Coach Murray and Kiley, also stressed the lack of team chemistry. "Everyone is playing like individuals on the court," Whitney said. "We're not playing like a team." Whitney also added that the team played well during their first home game, but since then they have had to struggled.

With youth and inexperience this team will be hard pressed to reach double digits in wins this year, but as Coach Murray pointed out, "Once they get their transition game going and taste victory, it'll be easier for them to pick each other up."

Their next two games will be September 26 & 28 at Franklin Pierce College and U-Mass Dartmouth, respectively. Their next home game will be September 30th against U-Mass Boston at 7:00 PM.